

1                   **AUTOMATIC STATUS POLLING FAILOVER OF DEVICES IN A**  
2                   **DISTRIBUTED NETWORK MANAGEMENT HIERARCHY**

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5                   **CROSS REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

6                   The subject matter of the present application is related to copending United  
7                   States application, Serial No. 08/705,358, titled "Distributed Internet Monitoring  
8                   System and Method", *now patent 5,949,055* ~~Docket No. 10950901-1~~, filed August 29, 1996; copending  
9                   United States application, Serial No. 08/947,219, titled "Network Management Event  
10                  Correlation in Environments Containing Inoperative Network Elements", *now patent* ~~Docket No.~~  
                  ~~10971522-1~~ *6,061,723*, filed October 8, 1997; and copending United States application, Serial  
11                  No. 08/551,499, titled "Filtering System and Method for High Performance Network  
12                  Management MAP", *now patent 5,787,252* ~~Docket No. 10950101-1~~, filed November 1, 1995, all of which  
13                  are assigned to the assignee hereof and are herein incorporated by reference.  
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16                  **FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

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18                  The present invention relates generally to data communications  
19                  networks and, more particularly, to a system and a method for automatic  
20                  status polling failover of devices in a distributed data communications network.  
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22                  **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

23                  A data communications network generally includes a group of devices,  
24                  or objects, such as computers, repeaters, bridges, routers, etc., situated at  
25                  network nodes and a collection of communication channels or interfaces for  
26                  interconnecting the various nodes. Hardware and software associated with